

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI'S QUESTIONS ON
POPPY BAN

1. ABDI IPEKCI OF MILLIYET NEWSPAPER HAS SUBMITTED FOLLOWING
QUESTIONS WITH REQUEST THAT YOU PERSONALLY SUPPLY ANSWERS.
IPEKCI INDICATED THAT YOU ARE FREE TO RE-WORD, ELIMINATE AND
ADD QUESTIONS IF YOU WISH. FRONT PAGE PUBLICATION ON
RECEIPT HAS BEEN ASSURED.

2. QUOTE A(1) WHY HAVE YOU BEEN CALLED TO WASHINGTON?
ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, YOUR RECALL WAS INTERPRETED
AS A SIGN OF PROTEST BY WASHINGTON TO TURKEY'S RECENT
DECISION TO LIFT BAN ON POPPY CULTIVATION.

A(2) IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT THE US WILL REVIEW ALL
ASPECTS OF THE AMERICAN-TURKISH RELATIONS AND THAT YOU WILL
PARTICIPATE IN THESE CONSULTATIONS. WHAT ARE THE OTHER ASPECTS OF
THE RELATIONS AND WHAT IS WRONG WITH THEM? A(3) IS IT WISE FOR
WASHINGTON TO TURN THE POPPY QUESTION INTO A POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN

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THE TWO COUNTRIES AND MAKE OTHER ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP --

SUCH AS US ASSISTANCE -- DEPENDENT ON TURKEY'S DECISION ON THE
POPPY BAN?

B. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT WASHINGTON WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT THE
TURKISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSULT YOU OR DID NOT PASS PRIOR
INFORMATION TO YOUR ON ITS DECISION TO LIFT THE POPPY BAN. WERE YOU
EXPECTING SUCH CONSULTATIONS OR INFORMATION?

C. WHAT IS THE PRESENT MOOD IN WASHINGTON, BOTH IN GOVERNMENT
CIRCLES AND IN THE PUBLIC OPINION? DO YOU THINK THAT TURKEY'S
DECISION AND THE US REACTION WILL THREATEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES?

D. DO YOU FEEL THAT CONGRESS MAY MOVE TO CUT AID TO TURKEY?
IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON THAT IF AID IS CUT, THIS
MIGHT HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON TURKEY'S NATO COMMITMENTS AS
WELL AS ON US-TURKISH TIES? OR IS TURKEY NOT REGARDED AS VITAL TO
US AND NATO STRATEGY ANYMORE?

E. TURKEY HAS DECLARED THAT POPPY CULTIVATION WILL BE EFFECTIVELY
CONTROLLED. WHY DO AMERICAN EXPERTS ASSUME THAT TURKEY WILL
BE UNABLE TO CONTROL POPPY PRODUCTION AND SMUGGLING? WHAT
KIND OF CONTROL MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO AMERICA? IF EFFECTIVE
CONTROL IS IMPOSED, WILL THE US BE PREPARED TO CONTINUE AID TO
TURKEY?

F. WHAT EVIDENCE IS THERE THAT THE POPPY BAN WAS WORKING?
WEREN'T OTHER COUNTRIES SIMPLY REPLACING TURKEY AS
AMERICA'S PRINCIPAL OPIUM SUPPLIERS?

G. WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT FOR THE US THAT THE BAN BE MAINTAINED
IN TURKEY WHEN THE US HAS NOT OBJECTED TO EXPANDING OPIUM POPPY
CULTIVATION FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES IN INDIA?

H. AT THE TIME OF THE POPPY BAN, THE US PLEDGED 35.7 MILLION
DOLLARS FOR COMPENSATION TO THE POPPY FARMERS AND FOR INTRO-
DUCING SUBSTITUTE CROPS. HOW MUCH OF THIS MONEY WAS
ACTUALLY SPENT? WHY HAS THE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM NOT SUCCEEDED?
END QUOTE

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